

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claims 2 and 3 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. The specification has also been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to because it did not refer to Figure 19E. Applicants have corrected the typographical error omitting Figure 19E. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were objected to because they referred to nucleotide sequences and did not recite the appropriate sequence identifiers. Applicants amend the claims herein to include the appropriate sequence identifiers. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Sette et al. (U.S. 2002/0119127). Not in acquiescence to the propriety of the rejection, but rather solely to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the references to SEQ ID NOs: 209 and 211. Therefore, the rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully believe that, as amended, the claims of elected Group I are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of elected Group I (claims 1, 4 and 5) and the process of use claims of Groups III (claim 6) and V (claim 7). Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be examined for patentability as previously set forth in Applicants reply to restriction requirement filed September 17, 2007.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

Amdt. dated Mar. 28, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2007

- 6 -

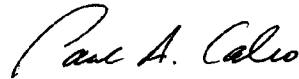
SETTE *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/677,754

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Paul A. Calvo
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 57,913

Date: March 28, 2008

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

796596_1.DOC